

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OLC 76-0778/a

6 APR 1976



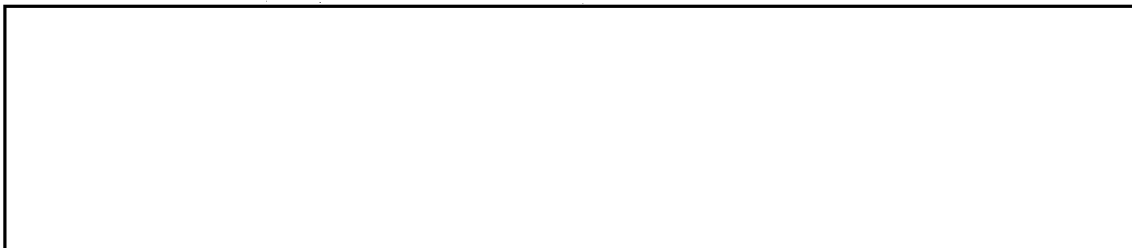
Honorable Mark Hatfield
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mark:

Thank you for your letter of 17 March 1976 seeking further clarification of this Agency's policy regarding contacts with clergy and employees of religious or church-related organizations.

I share your interest in assuring that the Agency's policy in this area is clearly understood by the Congress and the American public. This Agency's position on your bill, S. 2784, is being coordinated within the Executive Branch prior to transmittal to Chairman Stennis, but I do want to respond to the specific questions you raised in your 17 March letter.

The term "contractual relationship" is used to apply to any regularized, specific agreement involving services or information provided by an individual. In light of my 11 February statement, let me reiterate that it is Agency policy not to maintain any secret, paid or unpaid, contractual relationships with American clergy or missionaries.



STATINTL



The policy restrictions apply to any person whether or not ordained who is sent out by a mission or church organization to preach, teach, heal, or proselyte. I am assured that American church groups have never been funded or served as funding cutouts for Agency purposes and I can assure that this will continue to be the policy of the CIA.

STATINTL

Regulations regarding Agency relations with American churchmen currently are being drafted and I will have forwarded to you a copy of this unclassified regulation as soon as it is issued. In the interim, Agency officials have been notified of the policies set forth in my 11 February statement. Your deep interest in this matter is appreciated and it is my intent that you shall be informed if there is any change in the policies reflected herein.

If this letter and our comments on S. 2784 are not fully responsive to your concerns, do not hesitate to let me know and I will be happy to discuss them with you at a convenient time.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

George Bush
Director

25X1

Approved For Release 2002/11/22 : CIA-RDP79-00498A000200110080-9

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2002/11/22 : CIA-RDP79-00498A000200110080-9